

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 CIEP-03

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /144 W

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R 131555Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3899

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12274

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US, CI

SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEW OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH IN MADRAS

REF: NEW DELHI 12063 (NOTAL)

1. A SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER OFFERED AN INTERESTING INTERPRETATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S SEPTEMBER 9 MADRAS SPEECH DURING A CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER SEPTEMBER 13. REFERRING TO MRS. GANDHI'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN THAT "POWERFUL ELEMENTS WITH CONSIDERABLE MONEY AND OTHER RESOURCES WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND OUTSIDE IT" WILL THWART INDIA'S MARCH TO PROGRESS, THE OFFICIAL SUGGESTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER MAY BE BETRAYING LESS THAN FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE INDIAN MILITARY IN A PERIOD OF MULTIPLYING DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. IN HIS VIEW MRS. GANDHI'S REFERENCE TO ALLENDE'S OVERTHROW WAS ALSO SUGGESTIVE OF THE SAME UNEASINESS ABOUT THE MILITARY.

2. THE SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIAL FELT THAT MRS. GANDHI WAS AT LEAST IN PART CAUTIONING THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP HERE AGAINST
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POSSIBLE INTERFERENCE WITH THE POLITICAL PROCESS. HE GAVE THE

IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY WAS INTERESTED IN LEARNING
OF OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE MILITARY'S CAPABILITY TO EXERCISE SUCH
INTERFERENCE.

3. COMMENT: WE REPORT THIS BECAUSE WE FIND IT INTERETING THAT
THE SOVIET EMBASSYIS SPECULATING ALONG THESE LINES. WE OURSELVES
FIND THEIR SPECULATION, BASED ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S MADRAS
SPEECH, RATHER FARFETCHED.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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